

# CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH

## The Gateway

	<b>Worship at Central</b>
Sun 2nd	10:30 Mr John North, Passion Sunday
Wed 5th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm With Revd Sue Griffiths
Sun 9th	10:30 Revd Sue Griffiths, Palm Sunday
Wed 12th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Revd Sue Griffiths
Thursday 13th	7:30 Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Revd Sue Griffiths 
Friday 14th	10:30 Good Friday Reflections, Rev Sue Griffiths 11:30 Preston Passion, Winckley Square
Sun 16th	06:00 am Sunrise service at Beacon Fell 10:30 Revd Easter Day, Revd Sue Griffiths 
Wed 19th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Mr John North
Sun 23rd	10:30 Prof Alan Gillies
Wed 26th	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm with Revd Sue Griffiths
Sun 30th	10:30 John Bell of the Iona Community

**Problems? Worries?  
Anxieties? Stress?  
Pressures? Loss?**



**Offers a welcoming, safe and confidential space for you to talk and for someone to listen.**

**Book through the Olive Grove Coffee Shop or at [www.one2onelistening.org.uk](http://www.one2onelistening.org.uk) Or call 07542 076603**

*Times of worship are for keeping in touch with God, not your social network . So please, be considerate and switch your phone to silent! Thankyou!*



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*The Gateway Newsletter is published 10 times a year , monthly except for January and August. Notices for inclusion should be received by the last Sunday of the month editor@centralmethodist.org.uk*

8



**April 2017**  
Christian Caring, Gospel Sharing, in the Heart of Preston

**Minister: Rev Sue Griffiths**

**Tel (01772) 774285**

**[www.centralmethodist.org.uk](http://www.centralmethodist.org.uk)**

# Central's Diary Dates....

- April 5<sup>th</sup> Street Party meeting 7pm at Church
- April 13<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
- April 14<sup>th</sup> 10:30 Good Friday Reflections
- April 16<sup>th</sup> 10:30 Easter Day Celebration Service
- April 30<sup>th</sup> As part of our Bicentenary celebrations we welcome John Bell of the Iona Community.
- May 14<sup>th</sup> Church Bicentenary AGM at noon

# 200 YEARS



**1817-2017  
Preston Central  
Methodist Church**

*Loving God,  
serving people,  
changing lives*

## Whats On...

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April  
5-7<sup>th</sup> May  
17-18<sup>th</sup> June

Revd John Bell, Iona Community  
Church Family Weekend  
Celebration Weekend

*And more to come!*

## A morning of music and worship with John Bell of the Wild Goose Resource Group

*A project of the Iona Community*



**All welcome at  
Central Methodist Church  
April 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 10:30am**

*Music, liturgy, worship, prayer,  
diversity, creativity and curiosity...*

**“The renewal of congregational  
worship at a grass roots level...”**



Our biggest bicentenary celebration is our street party on 17 April. We have a meeting on 5 April at 7pm at church and need as many people as possible to come and make some suggestions and also help us with the plans. Come along and join in the excitement!

We are having invitation cards printed that you can fill in and hand out to people inviting them to the party and celebration service the next day. Maybe you know of previous members, people the church has had contact with, or those who have moved away. Invite them! Cards available soon.



How do you affect others?

*‘Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you.’*

[Romans 1:12 NCV](#)

We've a tendency to adopt the attitudes of the people closest to us. That's why Paul wrote, 'Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you.' The truth is that doubters get what they expect - and so do believers! Looking for God's best in every situation isn't just scriptural; it helps you identify opportunities you'd otherwise miss. Seeing people through God's eyes causes them to be attracted to you and open in how they react. Is that important? Absolutely! Why? Because often your attitude will touch them before your message does. Management consultant Fred Smith points out that there are two kinds of people in any organisation: polluters and purifiers. The polluters are like smokestacks, belching out dirty smoke all the time. They hate clear skies, and no matter how good it gets they find a way to make it gloomy. When the people around them breathe their toxins they feel sicker and sicker. Purifiers, on the other hand, make everything around them better. It doesn't matter what kind of rotten atmosphere they encounter. They take in the toxic words of polluters just like everyone else does, but they filter them before passing them on. What goes in gloomy and negative comes out fresh and clear. The question is: when you spend time with people, do they walk away feeling better or worse? Do you clear the air by giving them encouragement and fresh perspective, or do they leave feeling downcast and discouraged? Observe how people respond to you and you'll know which group you belong to.

(UCB Word for Today)

	<b>2nd</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>23rd</b>	<b>30th</b>
<b>Door &amp; Offertory Stewards</b>	Bill Manning Bill Swindlehurst	Simon Milward - Hopkins Mary Neary/ Geoff Tyson	Ron Bosworth  Dawn Robinson	Gary Creighton,  Stella Swift/ Florence Bowen	Bill Manning  Bill Swindlehurst
<b>Coffee served today by...</b>	Sue Higham  Sheena Rhodes	Andrew and Valerie Waterhouse  Ron Bosworth	Bill and Olwen Swindlehurst	Kate and Pete Johnstone	Julia & Sarah Blackett  Stella Swift
<b>Today the Flowers have been Given by...</b>	Sue Higham		Vera Sheila Brenda	Sue Higham	

Saturday 1st April: **April Fools' Ball** 7pm for 7.30pm by Methodist Action. At the Preston Marriott Hotel, Broughton. For details of tickets see poster.

Friday 7th April: **Film Night - 'RISEN'** (Cert.12) at Penwortham Methodist Church from 7pm.

Saturday 8th April: **Preston Orpheus Choir are hosting a Come and Sing Stainer's Crucifixion** at St Leonards Church, Penwortham. Starting at 2pm and finishing at 5.30pm. At 7pm the choir will then perform for you. Singers fee £10, Performance Tickets £5. More info & Booking forms from [prestonorpheuschoir.org](http://prestonorpheuschoir.org).

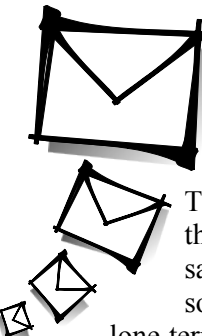
Friday 14th April (Good Friday): **A Life Worth Knowing, Passion Play for Preston**, starting in Winckley Square at 11.30am. **Special Request for 18 - 30's to be soldiers!**

Thursday 27th April: **Preston Passion Concert** in Preston Minster with band and choir, free admission! The evening will commence at 7.30pm, ending by 9.30pm, with a break in the middle for tea/coffee. This will be a great opportunity to talk to people about the Preston Passion Play and for following up questions about faith. It will also be a great opportunity for people who missed the Passion through one thing or another to look at what happened, through photos and music.

Friday 28th April: **Spring Concert for Macmillan Cancer Support** at Bamber Bridge Catholic Club. Tickets £6 or 2 for £10 from Tony Bonser 01254 854323

**Please keep your eye on the Brightsign display in the Coffee Shop for up to date info!**





*Hello,*

On the morning of 23 March we all woke up knowing that our world had changed. Something that had been happening in other places, other cities, happened in one of ours.


The very thing we all dreaded and hoped wouldn't affect us in the UK, did affect us. So far we had had only watched from a safe distance, feeling the pain and loss of others and showing solidarity with them. On 22 March all that changed when a lone terrorist mowed into people on Westminster Bridge and then stabbed and killed a police officer. The unthinkable finally happened and we were all left shocked and numbed and sickened by what we saw, waking the next morning with a feeling of sadness, sorrow and disbelief.

It is at times like that when people faith often cry out to God, asking why it has to be this way, why people have to suffer like they do, asking why it is so unfair and why one person can be so full of hatred that they are prepared to kill innocent people. Of course people without faith might also cry out to God at times like this, sometimes it feels like that's all they can do. I don't want to spiritualise or trivialise what happened but this month we will be remembering the events of Holy Week and Easter and I cannot help but reflect on what it has to say to us about the events in Westminster on 22 March. When we look at the Easter story, we see people plotting to kill Jesus, an innocent man. They plan and scheme and do their best to bring Jesus down, to cause division among the people, to try and stop them believing in Jesus' values and his teaching. For a while it like they have won because Jesus does die on the cross. But Jesus didn't go quietly, he defiantly faced up to all those who terrorised him and even spoke words of love and grace as he died. And to surprise them all, he rose again 3 days later showing that hatred and terror and division and death do not win, life and hope and light and love win every time. This is what is at the heart of the Easter story and for me it feels more relevant now than it has ever done. This is the end of a prayer from the President of the Methodist Conference following the attack. Perhaps we can make this our prayer this Easter:

May those who are motivated by hate be transformed by love.  
 May those who care for a broken world be strengthened by love.  
 May we be guided by your Spirit as we try to find words of comfort and be guided in our actions by the example of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

*Every Blessing, Sue*

3





## Westminster Attack

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Dr Roger Walton and Rachel Lampard, have called for prayer during this time following the attacks in Westminster, London.

"We ask all Methodists to join us in prayer as we unite with others across the UK in the wake of today's attack at Westminster.

"We pray for those who were attacked and their families, for the emergency services who responded so quickly and for the whole country at this time."

Loving Creator God,

In the midst of chaos and uncertainty, grant your peace.

To those injured and frightened by events in Westminster, grant your healing.

To the police, those who work in Parliament

and members of the public, grant your protection.

May those who are motivated by hate be transformed by love.

May those who care for a broken world by strengthened by love.

May we be guided by your Spirit as we try to find words of comfort

and be guided in our actions by the example of your Son, Jesus Christ,

in whose name we pray.

Amen.

[www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

## A race against time: Communities unite to raise money for famine appeal

Over 7 million people are at serious risk of starvation in Yemen, and millions more are severely malnourished in Somalia and South Sudan. Chronic food insecurity across these nations has led to the grim reality that a huge number of people are at serious risk of dying of hunger.

On 22 February 2017, All We Can and the World Church Relationships Team of the Methodist Church in Britain, launched an urgent appeal to respond to this catastrophic situation. Since then, the true extent of the need has been highlighted by the United Nations. Stephen O'Brien, UN Humanitarian Coordinator, defined the current situation as a "critical point in history".

A collective response

The collective action of individuals and churches has already been inspiring, with more than £100,000 given in response to the East Africa Famine Appeal. With millions facing starvation across East Africa and the wider region, the task might seem overwhelming - but communities have risen to the challenge.

To support the East Africa Famine Appeal visit [www.allwecan.org.uk/famine](http://www.allwecan.org.uk/famine)

[www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

## Methodist young people call for support in a challenging world

Mental health and the pressures of school life are among the topics that young Methodists have told the Church they would like support and guidance with. After gathering at the 3Generate event, attended by more than 500 young people aged 8-23 and their leaders, three manifestos have been produced highlighting issues concerning young people in the Methodist Church today which has been backed up with further research.

Other issues raised include poverty, the refugee crisis and the positive tackling of extremism. The manifestoes will be presented to the 2017 Methodist Conference, taking place in Birmingham in June.

Tim Annan, Youth President of the Methodist Church commented: "The Methodist Church has a wonderful tradition of actively listening to its members, including its young people. These statements should make important reading for all Methodists across the Connexion. [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

*(A quick update from me regarding my long-standing illness - fourteen months ago I was diagnosed with stomach cancer. It's been a long time, but all the sessions of chemotherapy proved successful, as I am now free from all traces of cancer in my body. This condition, partial remission, is the best news I have had in a very long time. I thank you all for your kind support and considerations towards me during this period.)*

## Church Bulletins. Part 2

**As promised in our previous Month's Gateway magazine edition, here are further selections of the Church Bulletins Typing "errors" (Double Entendres) or spelling mistakes...**

**Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want to be remembered.**

**The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.**

**This evening at 7PM there will be a hymn singing in the park opposite the Church. Bring a blanket and be prepared to sin.**

**The minister would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.**

**The Church stewards will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement on Friday at 7 PM. The Congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.**

**Weight watchers will meet at 7 PM at our Church. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.**

**Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.**

**The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours'**

**Well, that's the last of the "double entendres" or spelling mistakes for the moment. More to come later in the year.**

*Peter Bonage*